

To the Wigmore Rural District Council

February 22nd 1898
Gentlemen.

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31. 1897

You will notice that the number of deaths in your district during 1897 is 64 in 1896-57 making an increase of 7, but when I mention that 35 out of the 64 deaths were above the age of 65, you will see that the causes were not attributable to any default of Sanitary measures but merely due to diseases incidental to old age - I am glad to say that the Additional Burial Ground at Wigmore is in the course of formation I have also seen fit to recommend that additional Burial is provided in the Parish of Leutoardine.

The following table shows certain statistics of mortality during the year 1897 -

<u>Deaths</u>	per 1000 of population	1897	15.2
"	"	1896	12.8
<u>Births</u>	per 1000 of population	1897	28.6
"	"	1896	27.2
<u>Deaths</u>	per 1000 from Zymotic Diseases	1897	7.48
"	"	1896	6.1
<u>Deaths</u>	of Infants under one year	per 1000	1897
"	"	"	58.2
"	"	1896	150.

The following Table gives the ages of the persons who died during 1897

under 1 year	9	7
one & under 5 years	2	4
Five & under 15 years	2	
Fifteen & under 25 years	4	
Twenty five & under 65	12	
Sixty five & upwards	3	5

The vital statistics call for no special comment. They are on the whole quite of a satisfactory nature.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases are I consider very favourable.

The following Table shows the Number & Nature of Cases of infectious disease which occurred in the district during 1897, also the Number of Houses infected. I can on reference to my records give an opinion as to the probable source of Infection in each case on the best evidence obtainable. Many cases may not come under my notice owing to their very mild character & in many instances having no medical attention. These cases are as a rule the most dangerous in spreading disease & generally through School Agents.

Number of Houses Infected	6	4	1
Number of Persons attacked	8	5	1
Number of Deaths	0		

In every out-break the necessary precautions for personal isolation etc. are enforced by word of mouth & by leaving printed plain directions how to prevent the spread of Infection. I have also had special hand bills printed to enforce more stringent measures as to communication between infected houses.

Scarlet-fever

There has been a prevalence of Scarlet-fever in Shoredon & surrounding districts. The cases were mild in character & somewhat widely scattered but as a consequence of the pains taken to investigate the cases upon their occurrence & to ensure the following out of all necessary precautions the outbreaks were as a rule localised & no epidemic has resulted. In many instances the disease being confined to the house in which it first appeared.

Diphtheria

A few cases were notified, one evidently an imported case, the others due to unsanitary surroundings & possibly to a revival of old germs.

Euteric Fever

There has been but one case in your district & this was an imported case, the person coming from London & suffering from the disease.

Small Pox

I have no case to report

Erysipelas

A few cases were as usual reported they were for the most part scattered & isolated cases.


I am glad to say that I have during 1897 had no occasion to recommend the closure of any schools in your district

An account of the Sanitary Work.

During the past year I have from time to time at certain periods or as occasions required inspected your district in order by personal observation to keep myself informed as to conditions injurious to health. When ever I have found any sanitary defects I have made notes & called the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the same.

The following is an account of the Sanitary Work in the Year 1897 in the Wymore Rural District furnished by the Sanitary Inspector.

No of Houses visited	71
Nuisances abated	62
Houses in bad repair	12
New drains or old ones re-constructed	18
New Closets or old ones repaired	22
Objectionable water supply accumulations	4
Animals kept like a nuisance	2
	4



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Housing of the Working Classes

Speaking of the District generally the Majority of the Cottages present features of construction condition & surroundings to which objection might be made taken from a Sanitary point-of view especially those of old construction which are inclined to be damp though having no drainage round them the walls being unprotected from eaves dropping owing to want of proper spouting. I must also draw attention to the closets which in many instances are of objectionable construction without proper means of scavenging & leaky pits admitting rain & surface water in many instances the closet accommodation is insufficient but this I am glad to say is being gradually remedied.

Wigmore Sewerage

I am sorry that during 1897 no action has been taken in the matter of the Wigmore Sewerage. This is a very important matter & until some efficient system of sewerage is carried out a great deal of important sanitary work must stand in abeyance. I do not think that the system could be of any great expense & I think it could easily be carried out by gravitation. I must urge the careful consideration of a sewerage scheme for as matters now stand if any epidemic were to occur fear it would assume alarming proportions.

over crowding

There is not much overcrowding in your district although the cubic space in the cottages is frequently small for the residents - whenever it has existed owing to lodgers or adult children remaining at home notice has been given to the Sanitary Inspector & such a state of things has been remedied.

Public Wells & Water Supply

It is as I mentioned in my last Annual Report - a very difficult matter in the absence of Public Water Works to supply an efficient water supply with in reasonable distance & of a wholesome quality - Still when there are groups of cottages a fairly good water supply has been obtained. There is still a great deal to be done in this matter. I need hardly mention that the provision of a readily accessible & wholesome source of drinking water is one of the most important duties of a Sanitary Authority - as Public Wells are the property of the Sanitary Authority I would recommend that the Authority take all possible steps to protect public wells from contamination.

I intend during the ensuing year to make a survey of all wells in your district which I consider to be a most important matter after the serious epidemics of Enteric fever which have been brought about by specific contamination of water supplies.

I have had occasion to direct your Council
to recommend the closure of our well
owing to organic impurity of the
water & I fear there are others to which
I must direct the attention of your
Council

I find the adoption of the Notification
of Diseases Act. has proved most
satisfactory enabling sanitary
measures to be at once taken & every
house is carefully inspected & all
sanitary defects remedied

I have also recommended the adoption
of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention)
Act. as a great measure of safe
guarding the public Health

I append the usual tabular statement
of sickness & mortality - during the year
1897 &

Have the honour to be Gentlemen
Your obedient servant.

John Ashby
Res. Off. Health

